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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION V

DATE: JUN 20 1983

SUBJECT: Justification for Replacement of Capsule Labs by NUS Laboratory for the Analysis of Samples Taken at the Reilly Tar Site in St. Louis Park, MN

FROM: Paul Bitter (5HR-13) *BP*  
On-Scene-Coordinator

TO: Michael Kosakowski, Acting Branch Chief, Contracts Branch, WH547-E  
Scott Fredericks, OERR

The February 22, 1983, memorandum from Michael Kosakowski to Scott Parrish attaches a justification for the use of Capsule Labs in conjunction with the expert witness, Brenda Kimble, for sampling and analyzing the contaminated ground water at the abandoned Reilly Tar site. Brenda Kimble would also provide further interpretation of the data as they relate to natural environmental conditions and anthropogenic contributions. The uniqueness of Capsule Lab's Capabilities was the sampling method prescribed in the February 22, memo. The other advantage to using Capsule Labs was the proximity of the lab to the site and consequently the short time for analysis of the samples which aids in ensuring the integrity of the results.

Since Capsule Labs has recently gone out of business, we can still preserve the sampling technique by hiring Will Wood, the co-author of the technique while he was employed by Capsule Labs. My discussions with Brenda Kimble, and together, our discussions with NUS lab personnel, lead me to believe that NUS labs in Houston, have the capability to analyze the samples collected at the site, in accordance with specifications set forth by Brenda Kimble. The samples would have to be iced and air freighted to the Houston lab.

To verify my conclusion and to prepare for the sampling to begin this summer at the site, I recommend that Brenda Kimble and Will Wood travel to the NUS labs in Houston. They can inspect the labs, explain their purpose and technique and set forth the specifications necessary to prepare the resin samples whose components, resin and casings, must be purchased separately, inspected, tested and assembled in the lab. Thereafter, they can return to Minneapolis for a meeting with all the technical contractors involved in the enforcement work. This meeting is scheduled for July 8, 1983, Will Wood has assured me that the technique for sampling the groundwater is not property of Capsule Lab and he will use it on this project. He also stated that he is only available until September, 1983 which means we should finish the sampling by then. Analyses and interpretation will be conducted by NUS and Kimble for a longer duration.

If the above is acceptable to you, we should immediately prepare travel vouchers for Kimble and Wood to visit NUS labs on June 30, 1983, and the cost of this travel should be charged to the NUS zone contract for this project.